

Holt County Sentinel.

Oregon, Missouri.

FRIDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 8, 1865.

The Negro—Our Duty Towards Him.

THE problem now under consideration by the American public, is what shall be done with or for the negro. Colonization is canvassed, and is found desirable in most of its features, but its impracticability stares us in the face. With our republican form of government, we cannot say, consistently, to any man, "so far shalt thou go and no farther." With the consideration, then, that the negro is to remain in our midst as one of the peoples of the land, the question next arises, shall he not be recognized as equal to other citizens before the law? This scheme, with a little consideration, and upon the removal of an immense weight of prejudice existing in some sections, will eventually, we think, be found practicable. The right of franchise has already been accorded to him in a number of the States, and its feasibility has become apparent. Objections must, of course, arise: such as the ignorance and degradation of the negroes lately released from bondage in the South; but this objection can only be regarded as temporary and local in its nature. While we have for consideration the general welfare of a nation we should not halt at this.

A difficulty in the minds of some people is that in according to the negro the right of suffrage, we recognize him in all respects as our equal, which is an error. We say that this does not follow. It is an admitted fact that there is no social equality even among white Americans—not a bit of it. The negro, it is true, is degraded. It will be for us to make him better, socially, as well as politically. Our soil, our liberties, and rights, are free to the world, and when we grant to others, not "to the manner born," this privilege, it seems to us inevitable, that at some future day, at least, the States will unite in extending the same to the black race.

With the provisions made for his education in Missouri, we can already see, that at no very distant day, he will prove himself worthy. Let other States make like provisions for him. The negro is amongst us, and, to a certain extent, upon our hands. We should make the best of him. It is a national mission. We should endeavor to elevate his condition, enlighten him, grant him new privileges and duties, and he will be a benefit and source of wealth to the nation.

March of the Cholera.

THE cholera has passed over Egypt, and is now raging in Constantinople. The deaths average 600 per day. It has broken out at Bagdad in its worst form. In Syria, it is raging with unabated force. It has also appeared on the Danube at Galez, and in Southern Russia at Voessa. There is every reason to believe that it is following the same great route which it took on its first appearance in Europe, in 1831, and the horrible scenes which were then witnessed, can hardly fail to be repeated.

A Constantinople correspondent of the New York Tribune states that the deaths in that city, have thus far been chiefly among the Jews and the poorer classes of the Turks and Christians. Very few Europeans have died. The disease, as it now exists there, has all the worst peculiarities of Asiatic cholera, in its most malignant form.

Death of John Brown.

JOHN BROWN, Governor of Ohio, died at Cleveland, on Friday of last week, after a painful illness of several weeks. The disease was general ulceration of the left leg and arm, induced by a slight sprain, and aggravated by a bruise on his hand, caused by his walking stick, during his lameness. His great fleshiness no doubt irritated the slight injuries thus received, and caused them to assume the character they did.

THE pardon applicants laid regular siege to the White House on the 30th ult. The President gave audience to many of them. He is desirous that every application for amnesty, should take its regular course through the Attorney General's office. There are now about 9,000 applications filed.

Hedgepeth.

MR. EDITOR:—Such, I learn, is the name of a man who proposes to organize a church in our midst. That there may be no misunderstanding in regard to the name of HEDGEPEETH, I will simply say that he belongs to a sect denominated *Southern Methodist*; a name which means sectionalism, and speaks tyrannical, bigoted persecution to the true Methodist Church. And for proof of my assertions, let me point to the murdered preachers of Missouri and Texas, where the branches of trees were "bramleted" with those who were so unfortunate as to preach the gospel of Methodist doctrine in those barbaric States. I am not trying to "fire the hearts" of the people against HEDGEPEETH. He is a public man, and all have a right to speak of him as such. I wish merely to call attention to the cold hearted, barefaced impudence of HEDGEPEETH, in presuming to come into the midst of Christians and patriots, to preach Southern Methodism to a "dying and sinful world." MAHAMED, I presume, will next start a "machine grinding," for the purpose of enlightening the world in Christianity! I wonder if HEDGEPEETH has taken the oath? HEDGEPEETH!

SPHINX.

The Phelps County Affair.

We noticed last week an account of the WRIGHT tragedy, in Phelps County, given by the St. Louis Republican. This was the first and only account of the affair that we had at that time received. Other accounts have since appeared which place the matter in quite a different light. We publish the statement of Col. BABCOKE, which contains a full detail of the affair. What we aim to do, is to get at the facts, and we want nothing but justice. Mr. BABCOKE, who is now under censure, has demanded an investigation, and he should have it.

Libel Suit Against the Herald.

JAMES T. BEACH has commenced suit against the St. Joseph Herald for libel, laying his damages at several thousand dollars. It appears that Beach feels somewhat "wrathful" at the publication of two letters, which appeared in that paper some time since. If the charges be true, he will be shown "up to the world in such a light as will render him the scorn of every honest man in the community."

THE headway which the revolutionists are making in Hayti, has been sufficiently alarming to induce President Gifford to make preparations for his escape from that country. Owing to the severe drouth on the island, and the heavy taxes, the negro laborers have been reduced to the most abject poverty and great suffering, and thousands of them are on the verge of starvation. They blame the Governor and his officials, as the cause of their great afflictions.

BARBARITIES perpetrated by Indians and marauding whites, on the frontier of Texas, exceed belief. Bands of from 15 to 30, in Mason and adjoining counties, are constantly roving through the country, robbing and killing men, and ravishing and scalping women alive. The people are fleeing from the frontier en masse, and unless something is soon done to destroy or disperse these monsters, that portion of the country will soon be completely depopulated.

FRANCIS DE LEON, Governor and Provisional Commander of Tamaulipas, has issued a farewell order to the people of that State. He announces Gen. Canales as his successor. In his address he promises soon to return to that State, and concludes with the following sentiment: "Long live Liberty. Death to Maximilian and his French mercenaries. Death to traitors."

SINCE the 1st of January there has been no less than 128 railroad disasters in this country, in which 266 persons have been killed, and 1,109 injured. This shows very conclusively that our railroads are not managed as they should be.

It is rumored that the trial of Jeff. Davis will take place directly after the investigation is concluded in the case of Capt. Wertz. It is not yet known where his trial will be.

BARNUM's new Museum opened on Monday, Sept. 4th. He has already, in five spacious saloons, one hundred thousand curiosities, a mammoth aquarium, a lecture room one-third larger than the old one, and a superior dramatic company.

AN additional or supplementary roll of honor is to be published by the War Department, including the dead of Andersonville, and the names of such negro soldiers as have died near Washington.

UP to Aug. 24th, about 25,000 applications for pardon had been received at the office of the Attorney General. The signature of the President has been affixed to less than one hundred of the applications received.

THREE distinct and severe earthquake shocks were felt at Cape Girardeau, on the morning of the 17th inst. Shocks were also felt at many other points on the same morning, at precisely the same hour.

STATISTICS of the War Department show that during the rebellion, our armies captured over 800,000 prisoners of war, besides paroling about 160,000 more, at the final surrender of the different rebel armies.

UPON the earnest solicitation of Gen. Grant, the names of Gen. Lee and James A. Seddon, were stricken out from the charges and specifications against Capt. Wertz.

REPORTS received at the Department of Agriculture, warrant the statement that the potato crop this season, will be one of the largest crops ever grown in this country.

THE London Times takes it for granted that another effort will be made to lay the Atlantic cable, and thinks the rope capable of improvement.

ON the 31st ult., the receipts at the Internal Revenue Bureau, amounted to \$2,400,000. The largest ever received in one day.

BANDS of rebel guerrillas, bandits and thieves, still manage to keep up some sort of organization in Mississippi.

IT is rumored that the leaders of the rebellion will be placed on trial, and a universal amnesty proclamation issued to the rest of the people of the South.

THE New York Tribune states, from good authority, that all the colored troops now in the United States service, are soon to be mustered out.

THE Postmaster General has ordered the opening of the various post offices in North and South Carolina.

COTTON stealing is said to be very prevalent just now, in Vicksburg, by a class of vagrant negroes.

THE Editor of the Carrollton Democrat recently met with a sad reverse—lost his rations. Hear him:

"Some scoundrel broke into our kitchen the other night and stole the last bit of bacon we had between us and starvation. A man who would steal bacon from a printer is mean enough to steal acorns from a blind sow that has twelve pigs to support. This raid upon our rations has left us entirely without bacon and without the postage stamps to purchase more. We hope that the enterprising men of Carroll will come to our rescue and advertise liberally, in order that we may have the means to procure meat, and consequently 'save our bacon.'"

Circular.

H'D Q'S STATE OF MO.,
ADJ'T GENERAL'S OFFICE,
JEFF. CITY, Mo., Aug 24, 1865.
In order to forward correctly the many letters that are daily received at this office, for officers of Missouri regiments now mustered out of service, it is earnestly requested that all such officers and those who expect to be mustered out soon, will immediately advise this office of their present Post Office address, or to what place they wish their letters sent.

SAMUEL P. SIMPSON,
Adjutant General.

THE Dubuque (Iowa) Times learns that the Wisconsin river is a perfect mat of sawed lumber. Millions of feet are lying there with no immediate prospect of getting out, and the lumbermen feel discouraged, and talk of avoiding the trouble hereafter by artificial help, such as making slack water improvements.

THE Trial of the Andersonville Prisoner, Kooper.—The Charges and Specifications Against Wertz.—A Long List of His Unparalleled Atrocities.

Charge.—Violation of the laws of war.

Specification. 1.—In this that he, Henry Wertz, at Andersonville, in the State of Georgia, continuously from the 1st day of March, 1864, to the 10th day of April, 1865, then and there being an officer, in the military service of the so-called Confederate States of America, of the rank of captain, and as such officer, and then and there being commandant of a prison there located by authority of so-called Confederate States, for confinement of prisoners of war taken and held by said so-called Confederate States, from the armies of the United States of America, was, as such commandant, then and there fully clothed with competent authority, and in duty bound to treat, care, and provide for such persons belonging to the United States as were or might be placed in his custody as prisoners of war, according to the laws and usages of war, which he then and there well knew, but he, the said Henry Wertz, willfully and maliciously, designing and contriving to impair and injure the health and destroy the lives of such persons in his custody as prisoners of war, did, during the time aforesaid, in violation of his duty, in that regard, and in furtherance of his said evil design, confine a large number of such prisoners of war, belonging to the United States, to the amount of thirty thousand men, in unhealthy and unwholesome quarters, in a close and small area of ground, wholly inadequate to their wants, and destructive of their health, which he well knew and intended, and while there confined during the time aforesaid, did, in furtherance of his evil design, willfully and maliciously neglect to furnish tents, barracks, or other shelter sufficient for their protection from the inclemency of the winter, and the dews and burning sun of summer, and with such evil intent did take and cause to be taken from them their clothing, blankets, and camp equipage of which they were possessed at the time of being placed in his custody; and with like malice and evil intent, did refuse to furnish, or cause to be furnished, food, either of a quality or quantity sufficient to preserve health and sustain life, and refuse and neglect to furnish wood sufficient for cooking in summer, and to keep the said prisoners warm in winter; and did compel the said prisoners to subsist upon unwholesome food, and that in limited quantities entirely inadequate to sustain health, which is well known; and did compel the said prisoners to use unwholesome water, with the filth and garbage of the prison and prison guards, whereby the said prisoners became greatly reduced in their bodily strength, and emaciated and injured in their bodily health, their minds impaired, and their intellect broken, and many of them, whose names are unknown, sickened and died by reason thereof, which the said Henry Wertz then and there well knew and intended, and did knowingly, willfully, and maliciously, in furtherance of his evil designs, permit to remain in the said prison among the emaciated sick and languishing living, the bodies of the dead, until they became corrupt and loathsome, and filled the air with noxious effluvia, and thereby greatly increased unwholesomeness of prison, inasmuch that great numbers of the prisoners whose names are unknown, sickened and died by reason thereof. All which he, the said Henry Wertz, then and there well knew, and evilly and maliciously designed and intended.

The second specification charges the prisoner with "willfully and maliciously intending and designing to injure" health and destroy the lives of the prisoners under his control, to the end that the armies of the United States might be weakened and impaired thereby.

In the third specification he is charged with maliciously ordering, causing, procuring and inciting, in the service of the so-called Confederate States, to shoot and kill such persons as were in his custody as prisoners of war upon slight, trivial, and fictitious pretences, by means whereof large numbers of soldiers from the armies of the United States were wantonly killed and murdered while prisoners of war.

In the fourth specification, Wertz is accused of willfully, and with malicious aforethought, killing and murdering defenseless prisoners.

The fifth and last specification charges him with keeping and using "ferocious and blood-thirsty beasts, dangerous to human life, called blood-hounds, to hunt down prisoners of war who had made escape from his custody, and did thus and there willfully and maliciously suffer the said beasts to seize, tear, mangle, and maim the bodies and limbs of fugitives which they there and then did, whereby large numbers of prisoners

of war who did at the time aforesaid, make their escape and were recaptured, were cruelly and inhumanly injured, and great numbers died by reason of such inhuman treatment, which said Henry Wertz then and there well knew and evilly intended.

The Killing of the Wrights.—Colonel Babcock's Statement.—The Republican's Slander Refuted.

Much has been said and written within a few days on the subject of the deaths of the Wrights of Phelps county. I wish to make a single statement of the whole affair, and set myself right before the public, and quiet the minds of the friends of Law and Order.

In the month of May last there came a gang of bushwhackers from Phelps and adjoining counties, and murdered several citizens of Miller county. Among the killed was Captain William Conner. Some of the Wrights were in that gang. From Captain Conner, when they killed him, they took one stable horse, a saddle, a coat, a vest, and some money. We caught one of the bushwhackers, and he told me the whereabouts of the balance. We found all as he stated. Several hundred dollars, worth of store goods we found at the house of the widow Brown and the widow Jones. At Wright's we found Capt. Wm. Conner's horse. Wright denied knowing how the horse came there. At last, however, his wife said that one Connelly brought the horse there, but she said they had nothing else belonging to him.

The Wrights denied that any of the bushwhackers had been there since the death of Conner. I returned to Miller county.

During my absence from Phelps, the bushwhackers, or some of the neighbors, burned the house of a widow who had shown me where Capt. Conner's horse was. They would not allow the woman to save even her wearing apparel. Two of the Wrights are reported to have been present at the burning.

In August, this present month, I returned to said Wright's and there, at this same Wright's where I had found Capt. Conner's horse, and where they told me they had nothing else that was Conner's, I found Capt. Conner's saddle, Capt. Conner's coat, and Capt. Conner's vest. At first the Wrights claimed that the coat belonged to some of them, but several of my men knew the coat. When the Wrights saw that this was the case, they all denied knowing anything about where the coat came from. I told them they had to tell.

At last the old woman acknowledged that their son, Anthony Wright, and George Connelly, brought the things there with the horse. She also said that they knew them to be bushwhackers, and that together they had stayed there several times.

I also had conclusive evidence that old Wright got up the first bushwhacking company in that part of the county, and that all of his boys not only had, but were yet, engaged in bushwhacking. Two of them were identified as the robbers of several houses. This I learned directly from the men that had been robbed by them; and also, that not only had the house of old Wright been a harbor for bushwhackers ever since the war commenced, but was such now, and that a party of Kitchen's men had been there within a week. I found, also, a letter from the notorious Dick Watson, directed and written to the Wright family, showing close friendship, and speaking plainly of bushwhacking operations. There was also at Wright's quite an amount of store goods, which I left with the family.

The house was well fitted up for defense. Portholes to shoot through were only covered by several of the upper weather-boards.

The above are some of the circumstances—there are many others—all of which led me to believe the Wrights were guilty.

Therefore, according to my instructions, I arrested all the five men, and the old woman. She complained of being sick, and at her request we waited a day and night. She still complained, and I then gave her the privilege of staying at home and of one of her sons remaining with her, if she would agree to report at Rolla soon. She preferred going then if she could ride. She had her choice, and went with the others.

I ordered a Captain to take men and escort them to Rolla, and deliver them to the authorities. I gave him the following orders: Treat them well, but do not let them get away. If they attempt to run, stop them; and if you cannot stop them without, stop them with bullets; and return to-night.

I sent with the Captain, to be also delivered to the authorities at Rolla, the testimony in the case.

Just before night, the Captain, returned, saying that they all broke to run, and they shot them.

I then proceeded to follow Kitchen and his gang; I struck their trail about ten miles east or north of east from the town of Licking. When within one hour of them, I received notice that the commander at Rolla wished me to return to Rolla. Accordingly I returned, and

arrived there on Sabbath, the 20th inst., at about 8 o'clock in the morning. The Commanding General treated me respectfully, and notified me what he wanted.

Mr. Stephens, the District Attorney, said that I was under arrest, upon the oath of old Mrs. Wright, and I called for the writ. He said that he had not got it. I told him I would stay until he could get it. He left, and remained absent some two hours. I then went to hunt him, and, in about half an hour met Mr. Stephens. He had no writ, but said he would get one. I remained till about 2 o'clock, when the Deputy Sheriff served a writ, sworn out by Mr. Stephens himself. I went before the Justice, demanded an investigation and got none. We are now awaiting the action of the Grand Jury.

This is a brief statement of the affair. I know the Republican gives a different coloring to it, but its editor has published a base, lying slander—a very common thing for the editor of the Republican to do.

We have sought investigation, and still court it. We have nothing to fear—the lying statement of the Republican to the contrary notwithstanding.

THOS. J. BABCOKE,
Colonel Comdg Miller and Camden Co. M. M.

Editing a Paper is a very pleasant business.

If it contains too much political matter, people won't have it.

If the type is too large it doesn't contain enough reading matter.

If the type are small people won't read it.

If we have a few jokes people say we are nothing but a rattlehead.

If we omit them they say we are an old fossil.

If we publish original, they damn us for not giving selections.

If we publish selections, folks say we are lazy for not writing more and giving them what they have not read in some other paper.

If we give any one a complimentary notice then we are censured for being partial.

If we compliment none we are cynical and unable to appreciate worth or merit.

If we insert an article that pleases the ladies, men become jealous.

If we do not cater to their wishes, the paper is not fit to have in the house.

If we attend church they say it is only for effect.

If we don't they say we are desperately wicked.

If we remain in the office and attend to business, people say we are too proud to mingle with our fellows.

If we go out they say we never attend to business.

If we publish poetry we effect sentimentalism.

If we do not, we have no literary taste or polish.

If the mail does not deliver our paper promptly, they say we do not publish "on time."

If it does they are afraid we are getting ahead of time.

If we do not pay all bills promptly, folks say we are not to be trusted.

If we do pay promptly they say we stole the money.

A Southern Character.

A writer in the New Orleans Picayune writes as follows of a preacher he saw in upper Georgia:

After throwing his eye around the house in a threatening manner, with "Oh, you miserable sinners," expressed in every lineament of his round face, he went on in a serious voice: "My brethren, in order to check all idle curiosity, I will state that my name is Elijah Browner, from Jessemin county, Kintuck, [sniffle,] and I am free to confess, without fear of successful contradiction, and I am here to-day to say, and it will at once occur to every intelligent and reflecting mind, when I make bold to tell you that I have been preaching now purty nigh gwine on three year, and an average of five hundred sermons a year, that I have preached to the sojers, to the Injuns, to the orfins, [sniffle,] to the niggers, and to the woodchoppers of Spaldin county; but never, no never [blubber,] has I seed in all that time so ill-mannered, so sinful and depraved and devil-hugging a congregation as this one here sitting before me to-day; and I want to tell the young men and women a setting back ther ogin the meolium, that comes here a courting and a flirting and a passin of notes round the meolium, and a laffin, and a giggin, and a lying in the face of Providence, that the laws of the State throws around me certain protection; and I am going to have it. And what's more, if the thing ain't stopped I am goin (for I've got their names) to call out their names from the pulpit next Sunday, and present 'em to the grand jury moreover."

An old gentleman accused his servant of having stolen his stick. The man protested perfect innocence. "Why," rejoined his master, "the stick could never have walked off with itself."

Certainly not, sir; unless it was a walking stick.